

Speak Out Now! at AC Transit 1/15/2024

Our Safety Is Not Up For Debate!

You may have seen the recent news story. According to an investigative report, AC Transit is reported to have the highest rate of assaults towards transit workers all throughout the United States for 2023! According to federal data, the rate of assaults to workers at AC Transit is not even close to that of other transit agencies around the country. Many of us have heard stories of operators being punched, spit on, harassed and more. In fact, on New Year's Eve, a stray bullet hit the driver's window of a bus, with the glass cutting the bus operator.

We cannot allow this to continue! Our safety is not up for debate!

What Would It Mean To Really Address The Violence?

It is no secret to us that we live in a society where violence has become more and more normalized, whether on the bus, in the streets or in our communities. We all deserve to feel safe, on or off the job. It's understandable why some people would want tougher laws and tougher cops. But what would this do to address the roots of this violence? Throwing more and more people in jail does nothing but to destabilize communities that are already struggling, often generating more violence.

What if we were able to live in a society where everyone had access to a good paying job? What if every kid had access to an excellent education and real opportunities for a future? What if mental healthcare was available to anyone who might be going through hard times? What if our communities were empowered to hold each other accountable rather than looking to the cops. Real safety will come when we all have a shot!

New Year, New Opportunities

For many people, the new year is an opportunity to start anew - whether it is to get more healthy or create better habits in general. But why do we need to stop there? Why couldn't we make resolutions to make things better for us, on and off the job? There is an ENORMOUS amount of power when people start to come together, but it doesn't just happen on its own. We have to make the effort to come together and communicate, to plan and collaborate with each other. We can make 2024 OUR year! Why not?

Inflation + 'Wage Increases' = 0

It would be nice if our paycheck went as far paying the bills like it used to, but that doesn't appear to be the case anymore. Even though many of us might have a solid stream of income, there also seems to be a solid flow out. From the grocery store, gas, energy, and housing bills, every penny we earn seems to be getting sucked back out. Last July, we got a raise of 3.4%. However, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, inflation of goods has gone up 3.4% over the year. In other words, we are getting nowhere!

All the extra costs that were added on due to the pandemic have found a way to stick around. This is not necessarily due to the fact that it costs more to produce, but because corporations figured out that we need to still pay! Wouldn't it be nice if we actually made enough to live and not just get by?

2023: Hottest Year on Record!

2023 is the hottest year on record with global temperatures at 1.46 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. This barely keeps temperatures below the 1.5 degree limit that climate scientists agree we must stay below to prevent even worse consequences. The deadly consequences are here! Massive wildfires have consumed regions around the world in North America, Siberia, and Europe, and record-breaking rain fall from China to Libya have killed thousands and displaced over a million. Investment in global fossil fuels doubled and emissions were the largest on record in 2023. Those in power are accelerating life on earth towards disaster. This can't go on! 2024 is on track to shatter emissions and global temperature records again. Let's make it the year we shatter the fossil fuels companies' hold on us.

Speak Out Town Hall: We Will Not Be Silenced!

Sun. Jan. 28 at 4pm

Come to our townhall against the repression of free speech by equating anti-Zionism with anti-Semitism.

In-Person Location: East Bay Community Space (507 55th St, Oakland, CA 94609)

Can't join in person? Join on Zoom:
tinyurl.com/son-th